(c) Number of proposals pending with the Regional Offices of the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are as under:—

(1)	Regional Office, Bangalore	Nil
(2)	Regional Office, Bhubaneswar	8
(3)	Regional Office, Bhopal	48
(4)	Regional Office, Shilong	Nil
(5)	Regional Office, Chandigarh	4
(6)	Regional Office, Lucknow	19

(d) Number of proposals pending with Regional offices under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for more than three months are as under:—

(1)	Regional Office, Bangalore	Nil
(2)	Regional Office, Bhubaneswar	3
(3)	Regional Office, Bhopal	20
(4)	Regional Office, Shilong	Nil
(5)	Regional Office, Chandigarh	Nil
(6)	Regional Office, Lucknow	5

(e) As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules & Guidelines cases which are complete in all respects are to be disposed of within 90 days by the Central Government. However, the delay usually takes place due to incomplete details furnished by the State Governments in their proposal. Progress of compensatory afforestation also needs to be speeded up*by the State Governments.

Organisation of Second International Crop Science Congress

1539. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second International Crop Science Congress has been organised at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c)_»(he1her some suggestions were given in the Conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the International Crop Science Congress was to assemble leaders of Crop Science Research from across the world and young scientists together to share knowledge and research technologies to impinge upon the endeavour of increasing Crop Productivity in an ecologically acceptable, sustainable and environmentally safe manner. This was achieved by developing a scientific programme which included five plenary lectures and eleven symposia where about 65 invited speakers made presentations, poster presentations by over 800 scientists and six Working Group discussions on topics of scientific and societal relevance.

(c) Technical suggestions abounded in the presentations made by the Plenary and Symposia speakers. Each session was accompanied by wide ranging discussions from the floor. The proceedings of the Congress will be brought out in print and will contain the details of the presentations and discussions. To cite one of the numerous examples is the call for increased Public and Private investment in infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities to cater to increasing demands of improved crop production. There was a crying need, for mechanization as well as farmer friendly price structure for farm inputs like seeds, implements, fuel and power to enable farmer to fulfill the world's needs for food and fiber. An example of an experimental recommendation is interspecific hybridization for resistence to the deadly phylloxera of grapes.

(d) The printed proceedings containing the suggestions and recommendations of the Congress will be forwarded to Scientific organizations of the Country and will be received by the Govemment for appropriate follow-up action.

Elimination of losses on Uneconomic Railway Lines

1540. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps/decisions have been taken

by Gvoernment to reduce/eliminate the losses on uneconomic railway lines, if so, the details of such lines;

(b) the losses incurred on these lines during 1994-95, 1995-96 and that estimated to be incurred during 1996-97; and

(c) the likely impact of these steps on the economy of these railway lines and on the Railways as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) On the basis of the review done during 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be uneconomical. Since the State Governments are reluctant to agree to the closure of these lines, some steps have been taken to reduce/eliminate losses on the uneconomic lines which include closure/ conversion of Stations not remunerative, into halts, running of mixed (passenger and goods) trains, economising on staff, curbing ticketless travel, introduction of rail bus service, etc.

(b) The approximate losses incurred were Rs. 165 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 166 crores in 1995-96. Figures for 1996-97 are not available.

(c) Despite adoption of various economy measures, the likelihood of these lines becoming viable is remote since the density of traffic on these lines is extremely low & their patronisation is poor.

Use of Railway land near Bhimodole Railway Station

1541. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land under Railway ownership near Bhimodole Railway Station in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any plan to use this land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) About 29 acres.

(b) No, Sir. The land is in use for Railway yards, other facilities, colony etc. Remaining land will be used for expansion and developmental works.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of special variety of rice

1542. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to produce special variety of rice;

(b) whether any programme has been drawn up by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the duration fixed for the completion of the programme; and

(d) the time by which the new special variety of rice would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), Hyderabad is collaborating with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to develop a special variety of rice with yield potential much higher than the improved varieties available at present.

(c) and (d) It is hoped that this special variety of rice would become available during the coming 5-8 years. IRRI scientists are also projecting a similar period for the development of the new special variety.

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन में पदों का सृजन

1543. श्री शिव चरण सिंह: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री 2 अगस्त, 1996 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1968 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन के निर्देशों के अनुसरण में 12.1.1992 के बाद कितने पदों का सृजन किया गया, किन-किन विभागों में इनका सृजन हुआ और ग्रुप 'घ' कर्मचारियों को पदोन्नति करके कितने पद भरे गए;

(ख) क्या किसी विभाग में कुछ बकाया रिक्तियां हैं जिन्हें अभी तक पदोन्नति के द्वारा नहीं भरा गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) से (ग) सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है। उसे संकलित किया जा रहा है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।